

militants attacked a natural gas facility in Algeria, which is the third largest exporter of natural gas to Europe.

The Caspian Sea region holds significant energy resources and proven natural gas reserves. In particular, the Shah Deniz field in Azerbaijan is one of the world's largest gas fields, with over 30 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas. The Southern Gas Corridor will help our European allies diversify their energy resources by providing an alternative and reliable source of natural gas. This will bolster their energy security and help improve geopolitical stability in the region. Specifically, the pipeline will route natural gas from Azerbaijan through Georgia and Turkey to Europe.

Current and past administrations have expressed support for the Southern Gas Corridor. At the U.S.-Azerbaijan Convention in late May 2013, U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan Richard Morningstar stated:

"... Azerbaijan's importance to European energy security will remain strong, helping to guarantee that our European partners are not overly reliant on any suppliers. Azerbaijan is now in the final stages of establishing a southern corridor for natural gas."

"... our overriding interest is that Azerbaijani gas reaches vulnerable markets in Europe..."

Additionally, a December 2012 report by Senator Richard Lugar's Foreign Relations Committee staff entitled "Energy and Security from the Caspian to Europe" states:

"... the Southern Corridor would advance several U.S. and NATO foreign policy objectives: it would further isolate Iran, assist in cultivating partners in the Caucasus and Central Asia and bolster their sovereign independence, and perhaps most importantly, curtail Russia's energy leverage over European NATO allies."

Mr. Speaker, the Southern Gas Corridor will contribute to regional energy security for our allies in Europe and Eurasia, and help to strengthen our strategic partnership.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important resolution.

RECOGNIZING CAPTAIN JOHN MCLAIN FOR HIS SERVICE WITH THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and commend Captain John McLain of Woodbridge, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement after 25 years of honorable service with the United States Navy.

Captain McLain graduated from Florida State University with a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations and English in 1987. He attended Aviation Officer Candidate School and was commissioned an Ensign in March 1988.

Designated a Naval Aviator in June 1989, Captain McLain was assigned to the Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (Light) Forty-Three (HSL-43), where he deployed twice to the Persian Gulf, participating in Operation Desert Shield with the USS *Chancellorsville* (CG 63) and as Detachment Maintenance Officer with the USS *Paul F. Foster* (DD 964).

In April 1993, Captain McLain was assigned to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron One (VX-1) in Patuxent River, Maryland, where he served as Operational Test Director for all SH-60B programs.

In April 1996, he reported to USS Boxer (LHD 4), in San Diego, as the Assistant Air Officer, deploying again to the Arabian Gulf and Red Sea with the 15th MEU (SOC).

Following refresher training in the SH-60B, Captain McLain reported to the "Easy Riders" of HSL-37 in NAS Barber's Point, Hawaii. He served as Officer in Charge of the LAMPS detachment aboard the USS *Port Royal* (CG 72) with the USS *John C. Stennis* Battle Group and as the squadron Maintenance Officer.

Captain McLain reported to the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, where he graduated with honors from the College of Naval Command and Staff with a Master's degree in National Security Affairs. Following graduation, he was selected as an Associate Fellow with the Chief of Naval Operations' Strategic Studies Group (CNO SSG) during SSG XXII.

After SSG, Captain McLain was assigned to the Joint Staff in Washington, D.C. where he worked in the Directorate for Intelligence, Deputy Directorate for Intelligence Capabilities and Requirements (J2P).

He was selected for command in August 2005 and reported to NAS Whiting Field, Florida, where he served as Executive Officer of Helicopter Training Squadron Eighteen (HT-18) and as the first Commanding Officer of Helicopter Training Squadron Twenty-Eight (HT-28).

Captain McLain reported to the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) as a Federal Executive Fellow in August 2008. After completing his fellowship, he reported to the Strategy Branch, Strategy and Policy Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy (OPNAV N513) where he completed his 25 years of service in the United States Navy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise to join me in recognizing and thanking John McLain for his committed and selfless service to his colleagues and our country. We are fortunate to have among us veterans with Captain McLain's sense of duty and continued commitment to our national security. We wish Captain McLain, his wife, June, and their two sons, Jack and Finn, well during this next chapter of their lives.

IN RECOGNITION OF A LANDMARK COURT RULING RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORITY TO GRANT CITIZENSHIP TO PERSONS BORN IN U.S. TERRITORIES

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of a landmark decision handed down yesterday by the District Court for the District of Columbia in *Tuaua v. United States*. The decision reaffirms the plenary authority of Congress to grant citizenship to people born in the U.S. territories. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are five non-citizen U.S. nationals born in

American Samoa and the Samoan Federation of America, a nonprofit organization serving the Samoan community in Los Angeles. The defendants are the United States, the State Department, the Secretary of State, and the Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs. The plaintiffs brought the lawsuit seeking a declaratory judgment that would assert that the Fourteenth Amendment's Citizenship Clause extends to American Samoa. I submitted an amicus curiae brief in support of the defendants. The Court granted the defendants' motion to dismiss on June 26, 2013 after finding that the plaintiffs failed to state a claim.

Mr. Speaker, the plaintiffs in the Citizenship lawsuit sought to reverse years of legal precedent and usurp Congressional authority to bestow citizenship to people living in the U.S. territories. The Court correctly found the plaintiffs' arguments unpersuasive and held, "To date, Congress has not seen fit to bestow birthright citizenship upon American Samoa, and in accordance with the law, this Court must and will respect that choice." When the people of American Samoa vote in favor of citizenship, I will work with Congress to ensure that the people of American Samoa become U.S. citizens. However, the people of American Samoa have yet to vote on whether they want to become U.S. citizens.

Mr. Speaker, in the early 20th century the Supreme Court in a series of cases known as the Insular Cases, firmly established the extent to which the Constitution applies to the territories. In these cases the Court defined "incorporated" territories as territories that are expressly made part of the United States by an act of Congress and "unincorporated territories" as territories that had not yet become part of the United States and were not on a path toward statehood. The Insular Cases established that only "fundamental" constitutional rights are extended to persons born in unincorporated territories.

The plaintiffs argued that citizenship is a "fundamental" right that applied to unincorporated territories. Recent federal court cases have not supported this argument. Similarly, Judge Richard Leon in his opinion in *Tuaua v. U.S.* correctly reasoned that the Insular Cases suggested that citizenship was not a "fundamental right" that applied to unincorporated territories. Judge Leon found the plaintiffs' evidence too speculative in the face of contrary overwhelming legal precedent and constitutional authority. The plaintiffs were unable to provide a single federal court case that has recognized birthright citizenship as a guarantee in unincorporated territories.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Michael Williams, Thea Cohen and Michael Fragoso and their law firm of Kirkland & Ellis, LLP for their generous support in working collaboratively with my office in support of the people of American Samoa.

In conclusion Mr. Speaker, I thank the Court for its well reasoned opinion in *Tuaua v. U.S.* and for reaffirming the authority of Congress to grant citizenship to the people of American Samoa. This decision will allow the people of American Samoa to decide whether they want to become citizens. Once the people make a decision I can work with my colleagues in Congress to grant citizenship to the people of American Samoa.

REGARDING SUPREME COURT DECISION IN SHELBY COUNTY VS. HOLDER

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in the case of *Shelby County v. Holder*, decided this past Tuesday, the justification relied upon by the conservative majority of the Supreme Court to strike down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act today essentially comes down to this: "Times change." Chief Justice Roberts is right, times have changed. What he neglects to add is that the change is due almost entirely to the existence and vigorous enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

In the same way that the vaccine invented by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1953 eradicated the crippling effects but did not eliminate the cause of polio, the Voting Rights Act has succeeded in stymying the practices that resulted in the wholesale disenfranchisement of African Americans in the southern region of our country but not in eliminating the motivations underlying them. And that is why the vaccine of the Voting Rights Act is needed as much today as Dr. Salk's vaccine is needed to prevent another polio epidemic.

In his opinion, the Chief Justice applauds this remarkable progress brought about by the Voting Rights Act and concludes it was so successful in preventing the states with the worst and most egregious records of voter suppression, intimidation from disenfranchising minority voters that those States should no longer be subject to the federal supervision responsible for the success he celebrates.

But in a record exceeding 15,000 pages in length compiled after holding 21 hearings and receiving testimony from more than 150 witnesses, Congress carefully and meticulously documented why the covered States could not yet be trusted to refrain from a return to their days of shame. And because of Section 5, they could not do so even if they tried.

Without Section 5, Congress recognized that many of the advances of the past decades could be wiped out overnight with new schemes and devices, such as the mid-decade redistricting conducted in my home State of Texas, which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down in part in *LULAC v. Perry*, 546 U.S. 399 (2006) or the attempt to eliminate the North Forest Independent School District in my congressional district.

I call upon the leadership of the Congress and President Obama to follow the example of their predecessors during the 109th Congress and begin immediately to work together to come up with the legislative remedy needed to repair the damage caused by the Supreme Court's misreading of history and disregard of its own settled precedents when it comes to Congress's power to protect the right to vote guaranteed by the 15th Amendment.

While the Congress works to come up with the pre-clearance legislative fix, the administration in the meantime should begin redirecting its resources to wage the many "post-clearance" battles that lay ahead.

RECOGNIZING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 GREATER RESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS FOR CHAMBER EXCELLENCE

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize recipients of the 2013 Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Awards for Chamber Excellence.

The Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1982 as a business roundtable in the growing community of Reston, Virginia. For more than 30 years, the Reston Chamber has facilitated business growth and entrepreneurship through its programming, advocacy and engagement throughout the community. The Reston Chamber currently has more than 600 member businesses that together employ more than 10,000 people. It is the 6th largest chamber of commerce in the Washington DC-metropolitan region and is deeply embedded in the community.

The Reston Chamber hosts annual events such as Taste of Reston, Oktoberfest Reston, and Best of Reston, and it has received national recognition for its Ethics Day, a workshop for high school students on ethical decision making. Members use the INC.spire Education Foundation and free SCORE business coaching programs to help create and grow their enterprises. INC.spire has assisted more than four dozen entrepreneurs create 500 jobs and \$45 million of business investment.

The Chamber was recognized by Fairfax County Public Schools for its involvement in local classrooms, received the Community Service Award from the Reston Community Center, and received the Best of Reston Corporate Philanthropy Award in 2012.

Each year, through the Awards for Chamber Excellence, the Chamber recognizes member companies, individuals, and volunteers who have demonstrated excellence, innovation and exceptional dedication to the Reston community. I am pleased to join the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce in recognizing the following Awards for Chamber Excellence (ACE) recipients:

Committee of the Year: Business Education Committee, Angela Inzerillo and Cindy Simons-Bennett (co-chairs).

Small Business of the Year: Conversion Pipeline.

Medium Business of the Year: Atrium Catering and Design.

Large Business of the Year: Access National Bank.

Member of the Year: Cynthia Hyland, Northrop Grumman.

New Member of the Year: Lindsay Mensch.

Volunteer of the Year: Laura Lee Spatzer.

First Responder of the Year Award: Sally Dickinson, North Point Fire Station 439.

Joe Ritchie Pinnacle Award: Marion Myers, Myers Public Relations.

President's Award: Bill Byers, First Virginia Community Bank.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating this year's award recipients and in thanking them for their contributions to the local economy and outstanding service to our community. I also commend the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce for its

role as an invaluable partner to local businesses, nonprofits and schools. The efforts of the Chamber, the member businesses, and volunteers have helped make Reston a truly special place live, work and raise a family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen death in my family, I was absent for rollcall votes 287–290. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Yea," rollcall No. 287 H.R. 2383. To designate the new Interstate Route 20 bridge over the Mississippi River connecting St. Louis, Missouri, and southwestern Illinois as the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge.

"Yea," rollcall No. 288 H.R. 1092. To designate the air traffic control center located in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the Patricia Clark Boston Air Route Traffic Control Center.

"Yea," rollcall No. 289. On Ordering the Previous Question.

"Yea," rollcall No. 290. Providing for consideration of H.R. 1613, Outer Continental Shelf Transboundary Hydrocarbon Agreements Authorization Act; providing for consideration of H.R. 2231, Offshore Energy and Jobs Act; and providing for consideration of H.R. 2410, making appropriations for Agriculture, FY 2014.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 SHELTER HOUSE, INC. VOLUNTEER AWARDS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the remarkable efforts of Shelter House, Inc., and to congratulate the recipients of the 2013 Volunteer Awards. Shelter House is a community-based, non-profit organization that works to break the cycle of homelessness by offering support to those most in need in the Northern Virginia community. Shelter House provides crisis intervention, temporary, transitional and permanent housing, training, counseling, and programs to support self-sufficiency. Of course, none of this would be possible without the hard work of dedicated volunteers.

Shelter House was founded in 1981 by several faith groups, which came together to better serve low-income individuals and families. Shelter House operates three shelters: The Katherine K. Hanley and the Patrick Henry family shelters, which provide temporary housing for local families who become homeless, and Artemis House, Fairfax County's only emergency shelter for families and individuals fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking. In 2013, Shelter House added permanent housing to its portfolio by partnering with Falls Church Presbyterian Church to open the Ives House to three homeless/unstably housed families to provide additional case management support to increase their self-sufficiency.